

Airmen get another shot at Anthrax vaccination

By Staff Sgt. **Chyenne A. Griffin**
Combined Air Operations Center

The Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program officially resumed throughout U.S. Central Command Air Forces June 21 under an emergency use authorization.

The AVIP was placed on hold indefinitely in October 2004 by court order prohibiting mandatory anthrax vaccinations; the safety of the vaccine was not a factor in the ruling. The FDA issued this temporary authorization to allow deploying servicemembers the opportunity to be immunized after determining that the known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks for its use.

Personnel moving to or deploying to Korea or to the Central Command area of responsibility, with the exception of the 40th Air Expeditionary Group, have the opportunity to receive the vaccinations up to 60 days prior to their date of departure. Servicemembers currently in theater will be offered the vaccine as well.

The anthrax vaccination schedule is administered in six doses given over 18 months – day one, two-week, four-week, six-week, 12- and 18-month boosters, then annual boosters. All six doses are needed for full protection. Those that have received vaccinations before will pick up where they left off in the program, there is

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Photo by Senior Airman **Jason Robertson**

Here comes the boom

The 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal team put on a show for Airmen deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq, Sunday. EOD members set up a series of 10 controlled detonations to provide troops a 4th of July fireworks display.

Saving a life



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Second time's the charm



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Morale boosters



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Medical squadron saves infant's life

By Tech. Sgt. J. LaVoie
506 Air Expeditionary Public Affairs

Kirkuk medical staff recently saved the life of a local 3-month-old child who was suffering from a severe infection.

The child's father brought him to a forward operating base, where it was arranged for the baby to be evacuated to Kirkuk for care.

Though the 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron doesn't routinely care for civilians, much less infants, an exception was made because of the immediacy of care needed in this case.

"The Army physician at the FOB immediately recognized that the infant was within 24 hours of dying from infection and bleeding," said Col. (Dr.) Brian Peyton, 506th EMEDS. "They transferred him here via dustoff."



Courtesy photo

Airman 1st Class Nicole Schmitt holds a local infant after the 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron successfully performed surgery to save the child's life.

When the medical staff first discovered they had an infant heading their way, they immediately started evaluating their capabilities.

They found a wealth of experience, including Maj. (Dr.) Paul Morton, emergency physician, who treats children back in the states; Capt. (Dr.) Scott Janus, an anesthesiologist who recently completed training including pediatric cardiac anesthesia; and family physician Maj. (Dr.) Claire Shervanik. Additionally, Capt. Dawn Graham, a nurse with pediatric ICU experience, had already put together pediatric intensive care unit equipment when she arrived in the AOR, in case the need arose.

Once the infant arrived, the 506th EMEDS team began working to save his life.

"The first task was to place intravenous lines and stabilize him," said Col. (Dr.) Steve Chambers, 506th EMEDS commander. "We gave him fluids, blood and antibiotics and prepared him for surgery, all while taking cover during an alarm red."

The team determined that the baby was in shock from blood loss and infection secondary to an abscess of infected glands in his chest wall. Once he was stabilized, Colonel Peyton performed the one hour surgery.

During the stay, the hospital staff noticed the infant's blood wasn't clotting normally and had to replace clotting factors as well. EMEDS is not equipped to perform the more complex clotting tests available at major academic hospitals. Therefore, the 506th began working with the Iraqi Ministry of Health to find a local doctor who could provide not only follow-up care for the surgery, but could help treat the infant if the blood issue continued.

Using an interpreter, they taught the father to change the dressings and otherwise care for the wound.

"Despite the language barrier, the father took to caring for the wound as well as, or better than, anyone in the states," said Colonel Peyton.

After five days and several surgeries, the infant was ready for discharge and to receive follow-up care from local civilian hospitals.

"It shows the flexibility of EMEDS," said Colonel Chambers. "Though we highlighted a few people, the entire EMEDS staff helped with the care of this infant – as they do with every patient."

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Photos by Senior Airman Tim Beckham

(Left) Senior Airman Batchelder, 64th Helicopter Maintenance Unit armament systems journeyman, times the feeder on a GAU-2 machine gun on an HH-60 helicopter, which is primarily used for Air Force search and rescue missions. (Above) After five surgeries, Airman Batchelder has full use of his injured hand.

Finishing what he started

Airman fights his way back to Iraq after serious injury

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Although a rocket attack cut his time short on his first deployment, an Airman from the 64th Combat Search and Rescue helicopter maintenance unit pledged to himself that he'd endure whatever pain was necessary to get back in the fight.

Following a year and a half recovery from serious injuries to his hand which could have ended his Air Force career, Senior Airman Douglas Batchelder, an armament systems journeyman, is back in Iraq at Balad Air Base.

In November of 2003, he arrived at Baghdad International Airport to begin his first deployment. After a couple hours of in-processing and a welcomed nap, Airman Batchelder reported to duty. His four hours on station would be all he'd see in his rotation.

"My commander had given me a handful of keys and I stuck them in my pocket," said Airman Batchelder, recalling the day's event. "When I took them out of my pocket, some fell to the ground."

The events that would follow still linger in Airman Batchelder's mind every day, he said. Just as he bent over to pick up the fallen keys, a 122 millimeter rocket tore through his tent. The rocket careened off his back, hit the ground and exploded.

"I blinked as the rocket exploded, so all I remember is a bright flash through my eyelids," said Airman Batchelder.

The concussion ruptured both of his eardrums. He described

the feeling as being enveloped in "silent chaos." Pieces of debris were flying everywhere and fire had engulfed the tent.

Airman Batchelder suffered numerous injuries from flying shrapnel, the most serious to his right hand. Pararescue members on site quickly provided aid and he was whisked away to the hospital where fortune smiled on him.

"The doctor that saw me when I got to the hospital said he had also just arrived," he said, "and as luck would have it, he was a hand surgeon."

Airman Batchelder received his first surgery in Baghdad. He was transported to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, where he received his second surgery.

After returning to the States, Airman Batchelder would have to make the decision that would ultimately shape his Air Force career – whether to separate from the Air Force or stay in. Airman Batchelder decided that getting out wasn't an option.

"I was too young to stop doing something that I really love," he explained. "The therapy was difficult, but I stayed positive because I wanted a chance to get back to the desert to do my job." In total, Airman Batchelder received five surgeries on his hand. He has 17 screws in place, and metal plates and pins holding his hand together.

Airman Batchelder said he's excited to be back in Iraq, contributing to the Air Force mission.

"I know my loved ones back home are concerned for me, but this was something I really wanted to do."

332nd ESVS:

Working to improve Airmen's quality of life

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Long hours and long days fill the four months or more many Airmen spend deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq. According to the 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron commander, a good quality of life is an integral part of mission success. The squadron's goal is to contribute to the readiness and improved productivity of Balad Airmen through programs promoting fitness and esprit de corps.

According to Major Brian Eddy, 332nd ESVS commander, Services focuses on the care and feeding of Airmen to ensure that the warfighting machine is properly tuned.

"The human warfighting machine is a weapon system just like an aircraft, and if it's not properly cared for it will break down," he said.

To boost morale, the 332nd ESVS makes every effort to ensure Airmen have the tools they need to accomplish the mission, whether it be through lodging, recreation, fitness, access to the media center or the education office.

"One of the most important morale boosters is food," said Major Eddy. "There is an old saying that an Army moves on its stomach, and that's still true today. We would see a difference here at Balad if folks were still eating MREs."

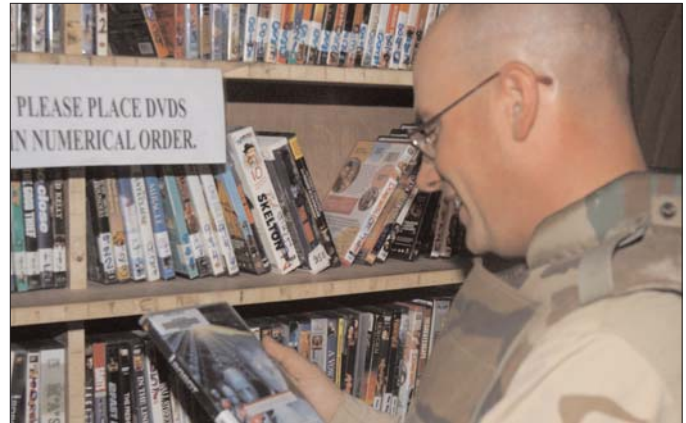
"Another booster is fitness," he added. "Most folks find deployments as an opportune time to improve their fitness. As we know, fitness helps improve metabolism, but also how we feel about ourselves. Both help in overall morale."

Services programs wouldn't be available at all if not for the Airmen and contractors who work every day to keep them going. Major Eddy is not lost to that fact and expressed his gratitude toward them.

"I'm lucky to be here with a crew of 'A' players," he said. "Each and every one of my team works hard to ensure the Airmen, Soldiers and Sailors in H6 are cared for. They spend countless hours trying to improve the programs in all of their facilities to provide a better product in the hopes of providing outlets to help the time pass quickly, while at the same time keeping everyone motivated."

According to Major Eddy, Airmen deployed to Balad are fortunate to have the facilities they do. But at the same time he wants Airmen to know that the 332nd ESVS is always looking to do more.

"We are always looking for opportunities to improve our support," he said. "While sometimes this environment makes it difficult to acquire assets, we will work to meet the request of our patrons to help improve the overall morale of Balad Airmen."



Photos by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

Staff Sgt. Todd Fairhurst browses through the more than 400 movies available for servicemembers to borrow from the recreation tent.



First Lieutenant David Stevenson works out on a treadmill at the Tuskegee Fitness Center. The fitness center, located in H6, is open 24 hours a day for servicemembers to stay fit while deployed to Balad.



Photos by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

Major Curtis Fryman, 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Det. 6 commander, takes apart an M-16 rifle during the Panther Challenge Sunday.

Panther Challenge

Airmen race against the clock battling heat, fatigue, each other

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

They were briefed on their mission and given the tools needed to get it done. To be successful they would depend on strength of both body and mind.

The first annual Panther Thinkers Challenge, held Sunday and set up by the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Top 3, pitted 13 teams made up of one officer, one senior noncommissioned officer, one NCO, one Airman and one female, in a race against time.

"The purpose of the Panther Thinkers Challenge was to get

people out and involved, to think, work as a team and accomplish a mission," said Master Sgt. Brian Davis, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, who was in charge of the challenge, "but the bottom line was for everyone to have fun."

Teams were required to complete 15 timed tasks. The team that completed the challenge quickest was the winner.

Members of the first place team were: Captain Heather Blackwell, 2nd Lt. Justin Moore, Master Sgt. Stacy Kanemoto, Tech. Sgt. John Beamon and Senior Airman Matthew Heist.



Panther Thinkers Challenge participants try to make their way past an obstacle during the litter carry event Sunday.

Air Force recognizes historical name of Iraqi air base

By Capt. David Small

U.S. Central Command Air Forces Forward Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA – What's in a name? In the case of Ali Base, years of history.

Ali Base, situated near the city of An Nasiriyah, in south central Iraq, is the main airfield in southern Iraq from which Iraqi, coalition and U.S. Airmen operate. Until January, coalition forces called the base Tallil. Now, all use the legacy name: Ali Base.

"Our Iraqi partners have always referred to this installation as Ali Base," said Col. Dennis Diggett, former 407th Air Expeditionary Group commander at the base.

"It appears that sometime after Operation Desert Storm in the early 1990s, Ali Base was incorrectly labeled 'Tallil' on Department of Defense maps," said Lt. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan III, U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander. "It's a bit of a mystery. We don't know why that was done."

The discrepancy came to light in January at a joint ceremony where Iraqi and coalition forces stood up the 23rd

Squadron, the new Iraqi air force's C-130 Hercules unit there.

"As part of the 23rd Squadron activation ceremony, Maj. Gen. Kamal Abdul Satar Al-Barazanchi, chief of staff of the Iraqi air force, unveiled a new sign: Ali Base. We learned then that the base had always been Ali," General Buchanan said. "In fact, we learned that General Kamal himself had even been the Ali Base commander during part of the Iran-Iraq War."

General Buchanan said he looks on that day as a milestone in the cooperation between the U.S. Air Force and the new Iraqi air force.

"It was a great day for our partnership. We assisted Iraq by giving them three C-130s and committing to training Iraqi pilots, navigators and (maintainers) so they can in turn work to secure stability for their own country," the general said. "I thought it was a great sign of our mutual respect that General Kamal and his staff were willing to tell us about our oversight."

General Buchanan then directed Airmen to call Ali Base by its legacy name. Because Tallil had become the commonplace name used by Airmen but

was never its official name, there was no need to take any official act to rename it Ali Base, CENTAF officials said. Coordination is underway with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency to incorporate the revision into future charts and maps.

"Ali Base has a history that is important to the local Iraqi community, and as coalition partners, it is important we respect that," General Buchanan said.

Built in the 1970s and serving as the busiest military airfield during Iraq's war with Iran in the 1980s, it is now home to the 407th Air Expeditionary Group, the Iraqi air force's 23rd Squadron, and the U.S. Army's Logistics Support Areas Cedar and Adder.

Airmen in air and space expeditionary force rotations with Ali Base as an endpoint can expect some confusion concerning the name change, officials said.

Some of these institutional discrepancies include e-mail on the global address list, administrative codes, phone books and directories. Many of these things have already been corrected here, but may be slow to change throughout the rest of the Air Force.

New corner store

Staff Sgt. Thomas Fout, 332nd Expeditionary Contracting Squadron, makes a purchase at the mini PX, newly located in the center of H6, near the fitness center. Store hours are 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.



Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

ANTRAX, from Page 1

no need to start all over to get full protection.

While the emergency use authorization is in place, personnel may decline the anthrax vaccination without adverse personnel action. Declining the vaccine will not affect deployment eligibility.

The latest guidance is available in the form of a tri-fold pamphlet titled "What You Need to Know About Anthrax Vaccine," dated April 5, and every servicemember will receive this pamphlet.

Once the information is received, the vaccine will be administered or the individual can decline. Their status will then be updated in the Air Force Complete Immunization Tracking Application. This ensures the member does not show up on any commander's overdue lists and is not tagged for a repeat visit to a medical treatment facility.

Servicemembers can change their mind at any time and elect to receive the vaccine by simply visiting the vaccination immunizations clinic. If vaccination is elected, compliance with the dosing schedule will be tracked through AFCITA.

"Military and civilian leaders strongly recommend the anthrax vaccination," said Col. (Dr.) Lee Payne, USCENTAF surgeon. "We want to ensure that the right information gets to the troops so they can make an informed decision about vaccination. U.S. military forces are still at risk of an anthrax attack."

Medical staff at the Air Force clinic here said they're doing everything they can to ensure 100 percent contact with wing members.

"We will be holding mass briefing to educate individuals stationed here," said Capt. Jerald Magee, Air Force clinic officer in charge.

"People who have already had the initial shots and have missed their booster shots will be able to continue that process," he said. He also noted that personnel who have received the initial shot do not have to have it again.

The issue of mandatory vaccination will be reconsidered by the Department of Defense when the FDA completes their administrative review, expected to be later this year.



Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

Mandatory item

Beginning July 15, the Air Force PT uniform will be mandatory for personnel inside and outside of H6. Airmen can purchase uniform items at the base PX or the mini PX located in the Air Force housing area.

Diamond notes

Do not pass any items through or over the perimeter fence to local nationals. This is a force protection issue.

From the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing First Sergeant.

Balad AB Religious Schedule

Protestant - Traditional

Sundays
7:30 a.m. Hospital, 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 11 a.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Gospel

Sundays
11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel

Protestant- Praise and Worship

Sundays
9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 6:30 p.m. MWR Tent 29th SPT BN

Wednesdays
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Contemporary

Sundays
10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall

Latter Day Saints

Sundays
1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Liturgical- Protestant

Sundays

8 a.m. Provider Chapel

Samoan Congregational Service

Sundays

4 p.m. Provider Chapel

Roman Catholic Mass

Mondays - Fridays: 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Wednesdays

11 a.m. Air Force Hospital

Saturdays

5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 11 a.m. Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626" Chapel (for Special Ops personnel only)

Church of Christ

Sunday

11 a.m. Aviation Village 1, 1-245 ATS/Conf. room

Islamic Prayer

Fridays

13:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

Jewish Prayer

Fridays

6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex

Meet your neighbor



Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

Staff Sgt. Willie Baldwin

Home station: Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

Unit: 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron recreation manager

Hobbies: Working on my car

How do you contribute to the mission?

We improve morale by coordinating recreation activities for deployed servicemembers.

What is your favorite aspect of deployment?
It's an honor to serve my country.

Besides your family, what do you miss back home?

Being able to get in my car and drive somewhere.

Know what this is?

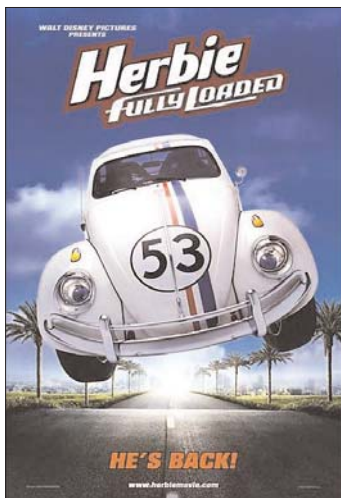


Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. The first person with the correct answer wins a \$5 gift certificate courtesy of the 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron. Last week's photo of a M-16 flash suppressor was first identified by Master Sgt. Terry Yeager, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing weapons safety office.

Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change



Today

3 p.m. - The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

6 p.m. - The Interpreter

9 p.m. - The Interpreter

Saturday, July 9

3 p.m. - Herbie: Fully Loaded

6 p.m. - The Interpreter

9 p.m. - The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Sunday, July 10

3 p.m. - Batman Begins

6 p.m. - The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

9 p.m. - The interpreter

Monday, July 11

3 p.m. - Hostage

6 p.m. - The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

9 p.m. - Herbie: Fully Loaded

Tuesday, July 12

3 p.m. - The Interpreter

6 p.m. - Herbie: Fully Loaded

9 p.m. - The Interpreter

Wednesday, July 13

3 p.m. - Herbie: Fully Loaded

6 p.m. - Sin City

9 p.m. - The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Thursday, July 14

3 p.m. - Herbie: Fully Loaded

6 p.m. - The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

9 p.m. - The Interpreter

